SUPER-HEROES CONFIDENTIAL

This Month: The Initiation of Iron Man

Little does Tony Stark realize that his field trip to South Vietnam will make a hero out of him—a super-hero, in fact. He had better steel himself for the explosive turn of events that's heading his way. The wealthy industrialist is about to trade in his suit of clothes for a suit of armor. Follow with us the power play that transforms Tony Stark into a metal marvel—Iron Man.

HEAR YE! HEAR YE!
STAN THE MAN ROUSINGLY REVEALS A REVVED-UP RETELLING BY ARTIST ARCANE AND GENIAL GENE OF...
"THE ORIGIN OF IRON MAN"
WITH INKING BY JOHNNY CRAIG AND LETTERING BY ARTIE SIMEK!
THE TIME: MARCH, 1963! THE PLACE: A SECLUDED SECTION OF THE U.S. DEFENSE PERIMETER IN WEST-NAM!
I DUNNO IF YOU SHOULD BE OUT HERE IN THE FIELD, MR. STARK...
WONG-CHU, THE RED GUERILLA LEADER, HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN THIS SECTOR!
I WOULDN'T BE MUCH OF AN INVENTOR IF I DIDN'T BACK MY WEAPONS ALL THE WAY! THAT INCLUDES FIRST-HAND ASSURANCE THEY'RE COMBAT-WORTHY!
IT'S STILL A BIG RISK, STARK! WONG-CHU'S MEAN AND TRICKY...!
NO TELLIN' HOW HE'LL STRIKE NEXT!
VAROOM
SUDDENLY, THE EXPLOSION OF A BOOBY TRAP SHATTERS THE WORLD OF TONY STARK, AS HE IS DELIVERED INTO THE HANDS OF MERCILESS FATE, AND OR..
...WONG-CHU, RED TERRORIST!
HE IS DOOMED! WITHIN A WEEK, THE SHRAPNEL IMBEDDED IN HIS CHEST WILL REACH HIS HEART! IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO OPERATE!
THEN HE WILL SPEND HIS LAST DAYS ON EARTH DESIGNING A SUPER-WEAPON FOR US!
TAKE HIM TO THE LABORATORY THE INSTANT HE IS STRONG ENOUGH TO WORK!
THIS IS PROFESSOR YINSEN! ONCE A GREAT PHYSICIST, NOW A LOWLY SERVANT OF WONG-CHU! HE WILL ASSIST YOU!
NO! I REFUSE TO AID THE EVIL OF COMMUNIST TYRANNY!
IT IS SHAMEFUL THAT AN AMERICAN SHOULD BUCKLE TO THEIR WILL, MR. STARK!
LATER, WHEN THE PAIR ARE ALONE...
PERHAPS, PROFESSOR, YOU'LL CHANGE YOUR MIND WHEN YOU SEE THE WEAPON I INTEND TO BUILD!
AN IRON BODY! ELECTRONICALLY POWERED BY YOUR TRANSISTORS! IT CAN KEEP YOUR HEART BEATING AFTER THE SHRAPNEL REACHES IT!
A PERFECT, NEARLY INVINCIBLE, COMBINATION OF MAN AND MACHINERY THAT CAN BE TURNED AGAINST THOSE WHO ENSLAVE US!

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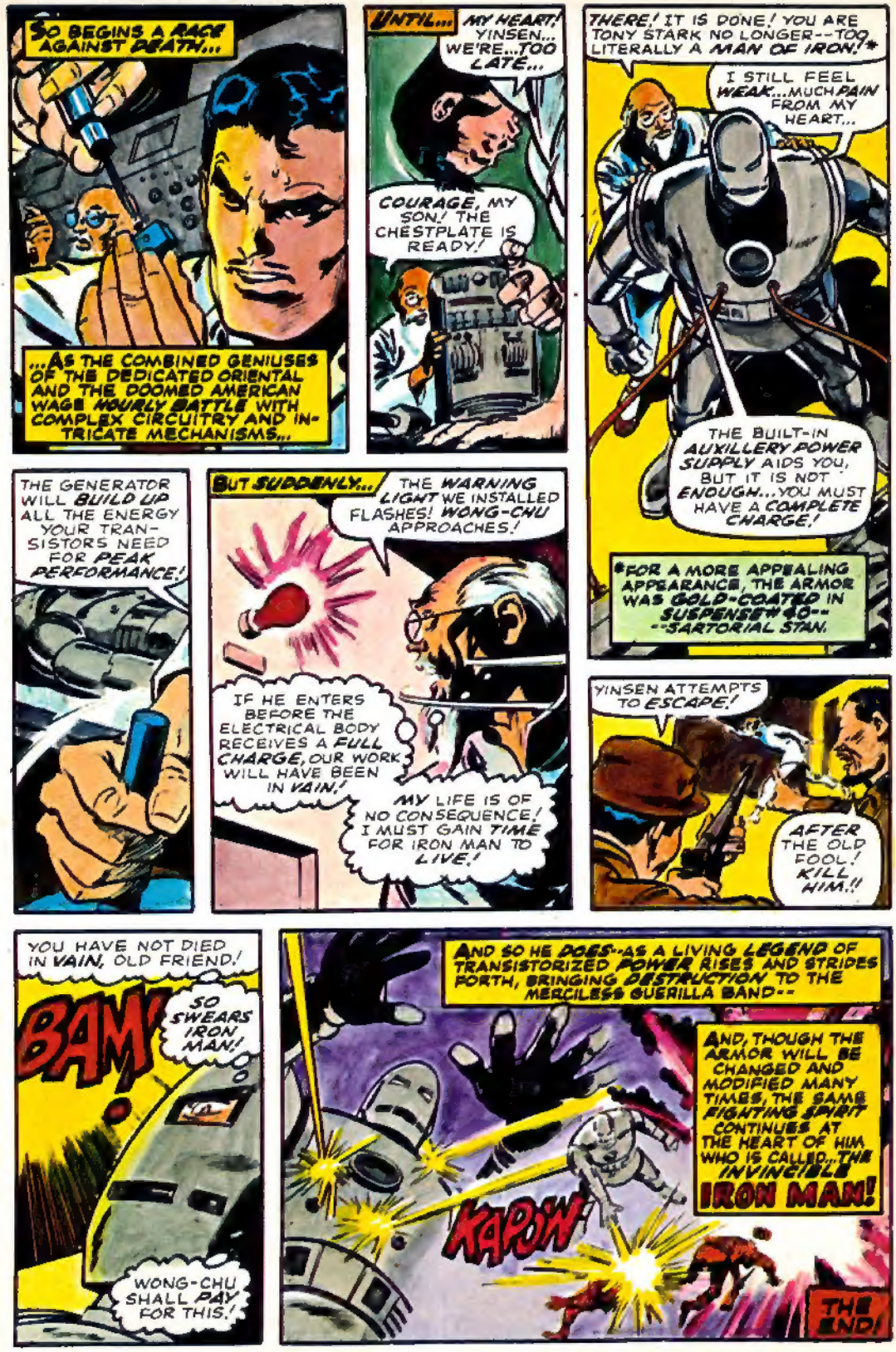
So begins a race against death...
...As the combined geniuses of the dedicated oriental and the doomed american wage hourly battle with complex circuitry and intricate mechanisms...
Until...
My heart! Yinsen... we're...too late...
Courage, my son! The chestplate is ready!
There! It is done! You are Tony Stark no longer--too literally a man of iron!*
I still feel weak...much pain from my heart...
The built-in auxillery power supply aids you, but it is not enough...you must have a complete charge!
*For a more appealing appearance, the armor was gold-coated in Suspense #40-- --Sartorial Stan.
The generator will build up all the energy your transistors need for peak performance!
But suddenly...
The warning light we installed flashes! Wong-Chu approaches!
If he enters before the electrical body receives a full charge, our work will have been in vain!
My life is of no consequence! I must gain time for Iron Man to live!
Yinsen attempts to escape!
After the old fool! Kill him!!
You have not died in vain, old friend!
BAM!
So swears Iron Man!
Wong-Chu shall pay for this!
And so he does--as a living legend of transistorized power rises and strides forth, bringing destruction to the merciless guerilla band--
And, though the armor will be changed and modified many times, the same fighting spirit continues at the heart of him who is called...the invincible
IRON MAN!
KAPOW
THE END!

THIS MONTH: INSIDE INFORMATION AND INTIMATE INQUIRIES INTO IRON MAN'S INCEPTION

When did Iron Man change from the gray suit to the gold armor?
Soon after his first iron body was made by Tony and Professor Yinsen, Iron Man decided that it was too frightening looking as it was. Tony, being a mechanical genius, designed a new suit of armor equipped with the same devices, but he made it gold and red. Since then, he has been known as the "Golden Avenger."

What kind of super powers does Iron Man have?
Most of his powers come directly from devices built into his suit of armor. There are miniature jets attached to his boots that can propel him through the air when he wants to fly. Also attached to his boots are tiny wheels, like roller skate wheels, that give him added mobility. His gloves can send out repulsor rays, which can blast through walls and smash weapons easily. His chest plate can also shoot all kinds of rays, including X-rays.

How does Tony manage to change into his suit of armor quickly enough?
Luckily, Tony doesn't have to run for the nearest phone booth when he does his thing. Tony stores the collapsible armor in his briefcase. To change into Iron Man, Tony first slips on the chest plate, then he puts on his boots. A hidden release mechanism and powerful magnets make the boots unfold right up his legs. The same kind of device is in his gloves, so his arms are covered by armor as well. Next he attaches his power pods. Finally the face mask goes on and Tony has become Iron Man, or "Shellhead" to his friends.

Can anyone put on the armor and automatically become Iron Man?
Yes. Once Happy Hogan, Tony's best friend, put on the armor to save Tony's life. Anyone who wears the armor can use the powers that go with it, but not everyone can handle the power as well as Tony.

Who are some of Iron Man's enemies?
Most of "Shellhead's" foes are humans who have equipped themselves with all kinds of evil weaponry. One enemy who is always making things hot for Iron Man is The Melter. His weapons can melt Iron Man's armor and burn him to a crisp with a single blast. The Mandarin is one of Iron Man's oldest foes. The rings he wears on each of his fingers are capable of shooting blasts deadly enough to end a super-hero's career before it's begun.

Does the heart trouble that resulted from shrapnel wounds still bother Tony?
The shrapnel was removed a while back, but Tony's heart was still weak. Recently Tony received an artificial heart. It is part plastic, and Tony is afraid that one day his body will reject it. By the way, the heart was put in by none other than Dr. Don Blake, alias The Mighty Thor.

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